

## House Resolution 116 - Introduced

### HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 116

BY ISENHART, STAED, GASKILL, McCONKEY, LENSING,  
MASCHER, THEDE, WINCKLER, STUTSMAN, WOLFE,  
STECKMAN, ABDUL-SAMAD, SMITH, PRICHARD, T. TAYLOR,  
OURTH, KEARNS, BEARINGER, HEDDENS, FORBES,  
BROWN-POWERS, GAINES, KELLEY, COHOON, DUNKEL,  
OLDSON, RUNNING-MARQUARDT, WESSEL-KROESCHELL,  
JACOBY, and MEYER

1 A Resolution encouraging state and local governments  
2 to increase the direct purchase of nutritious and  
3 healthy food from local and regional producers,  
4 including through Iowa's regional food systems,  
5 and recognizing the United States Congress and  
6 the United States Department of Agriculture  
7 for bolstering local and regional food system  
8 development.

9 WHEREAS, Iowa's Regional Food Systems Working Group,  
10 comprised of 15 geographically based groups covering  
11 91 Iowa counties, is a network established in 2003 to  
12 support Iowans who are working together to build more  
13 resilient food systems; and

14 WHEREAS, each regional group convenes multiple  
15 stakeholders, including farm producers, food  
16 processors, and other businesses, nonprofit  
17 organizations, Iowa State University Extension  
18 and Outreach, the Leopold Center for Sustainable  
19 Agriculture, resource conservation and development  
20 organizations, educational institutions, and other  
21 state and local government entities to support local  
22 and regional food system development; and

1 WHEREAS, in 2011 Iowa Acts, chapter 128, the General  
2 Assembly created the Local Food and Farm Program and  
3 the Local Food and Farm Program Fund administered by  
4 the Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship, to  
5 support the diversification of Iowa agriculture and  
6 Iowa's economy through the development of integrated  
7 local food systems to promote the production, sale, and  
8 consumption of food grown in Iowa; and

9 WHEREAS, beginning in 2011, the General Assembly has  
10 annually appropriated moneys to support the Local Food  
11 and Farm Program administered under Iowa Code chapter  
12 267A; and

13 WHEREAS, according to a 2014 report published by  
14 Iowa State University of Science and Technology, Iowa  
15 farmers responding to a survey reported a more than 23  
16 percent year-over-year increase in food sales through  
17 direct-to-consumer transactions such as farmers'  
18 markets and community-supported agriculture, as well  
19 as through wholesalers and large-volume institutional  
20 buyers such as grocery stores, restaurants, schools,  
21 and hospitals; and

22 WHEREAS, according to a 2014 report published  
23 by Iowa State University of Science and Technology,  
24 larger-scale buyers of local foods responding to a  
25 survey reported increased purchases in local food  
26 sales totaling more than \$22 million in 2012-2013,  
27 with 80 percent of those annual sales made to just 37  
28 buyers, for an average of almost \$250,000 in local food  
29 purchases per buyer per year; and

30 WHEREAS, according to a 2016 report published by

1 the Union of Concerned Scientists, if all intermediate  
2 and institutional buyers in Iowa purchased local food  
3 at the same level as survey respondents, more than \$3  
4 billion in new economic activity would be generated for  
5 the state's economy, supporting 16,997 midsize farms,  
6 and supporting 178,000 total jobs in Iowa, including  
7 49,000 full-time farm jobs; and

8 WHEREAS, targeted government procurement policies  
9 have been successfully used to spur economic growth,  
10 increase employment, develop rural communities, foster  
11 the creation of value chain partnerships and promote  
12 small businesses, including businesses operated by  
13 families, young entrepreneurs, veterans, minorities,  
14 persons with disabilities, ex-offenders, and others  
15 underrepresented within the private sector; and

16 WHEREAS, Iowa has established a successful  
17 high-profile precedent for using a procurement policy  
18 to promote Iowa agriculture through a commitment at all  
19 levels of government to use bio-based fuels; and

20 WHEREAS, in calendar year 2015, 1,110,278 gallons  
21 of E-10 ethanol blended gasoline and 169,951 gallons  
22 of E-85 ethanol blended gasoline were purchased by the  
23 State Department of Transportation for use in vehicles  
24 by departmental and local government employees; and

25 WHEREAS, in the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2014,  
26 and ending June 30, 2015, 883,281 gallons of E-10  
27 ethanol blended gasoline and 222,294 gallons of E-85  
28 ethanol blended gasoline were purchased by a number of  
29 other state agencies including but not limited to the  
30 Department of Administrative Services, the Department

1 of Public Safety, the Department of Corrections, and  
2 the Department of Human Services for use in vehicles by  
3 agency employees; and

4 WHEREAS, the Iowa Healthiest State Initiative  
5 instituted by Governor Terry Branstad is dedicated  
6 to addressing the nutrition deficit associated  
7 with the state's ranking last in the per capita  
8 consumption of fruit and vegetables, as measured by the  
9 Gallup-Healthways Well-Being Index; and

10 WHEREAS, government procurement preferences focused  
11 on small local food producers will have ancillary  
12 benefits, such as increasing the availability of  
13 fresher and healthier foods; improving nutrition  
14 among populations vulnerable to diabetes, obesity, and  
15 other chronic health conditions; reducing negative  
16 impacts associated with soil erosion and water  
17 pollution; as well as diminishing the use of energy  
18 resources associated with damaging climate impacts; NOW  
19 THEREFORE,

20 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
21 That the House of Representatives strongly encourages  
22 universities under the direction of the State Board of  
23 Regents to increase the direct purchase of nutritious  
24 and healthy food from local and regional producers,  
25 including through food hubs created with the support of  
26 Iowa's expanding Local Food and Farm Program; and

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of  
28 Representatives strongly encourages other state and  
29 local government entities including the Department  
30 of Administrative Services and agencies purchasing

1 through that department, the Department for the Blind,  
2 community colleges, and the Department of Corrections  
3 and associated institutions, as well as counties,  
4 cities, and public schools to increase the direct  
5 purchase of nutritious and healthy food from local and  
6 regional producers, including through food hubs created  
7 with the support of Iowa's expanding Local Food and  
8 Farm Program; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of  
10 Representatives strongly encourages state and local  
11 entities to establish procurement goals for the  
12 purchase of healthy and nutritious food grown by  
13 local and regional producers and to become active  
14 participants in a regional food system working  
15 group; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of  
17 Representatives urges all public entities engaged in  
18 cooperative or coordinated food purchasing to establish  
19 procurement specifications requiring vendors to source  
20 a designated percentage of food from local and regional  
21 producers in order to be recognized as a qualified  
22 bidder; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the House of  
24 Representatives recognizes the United States Congress,  
25 the United States Department of Agriculture, and the  
26 Honorable Tom Vilsack, United States Secretary of  
27 Agriculture, for supporting programs to bolster local  
28 and regional food systems development, including  
29 through the federal Know Your Farmer, Know Your Food  
30 initiative and related undertakings, such as the Food

1 Insecurity and Nutrition Incentive Grant Program; and  
2 the Farm to School Grant Program; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this  
4 Resolution be sent to the Governor, the President  
5 of the State Board of Regents, the Director of the  
6 Department of Administrative Services, the Director  
7 of the Department for the Blind, the Director of  
8 the Department of Education, the Iowa Association  
9 of Community College Trustees, the Director of the  
10 Department of Corrections, the Iowa State Association  
11 of Counties, and the Iowa League of Cities; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this  
13 Resolution be sent to the President of the United  
14 States, the United States Secretary of Agriculture,  
15 the President and Secretary of the United States  
16 Senate, the Speaker and Clerk of the United States  
17 House of Representatives, and to the members of Iowa's  
18 congressional delegation.